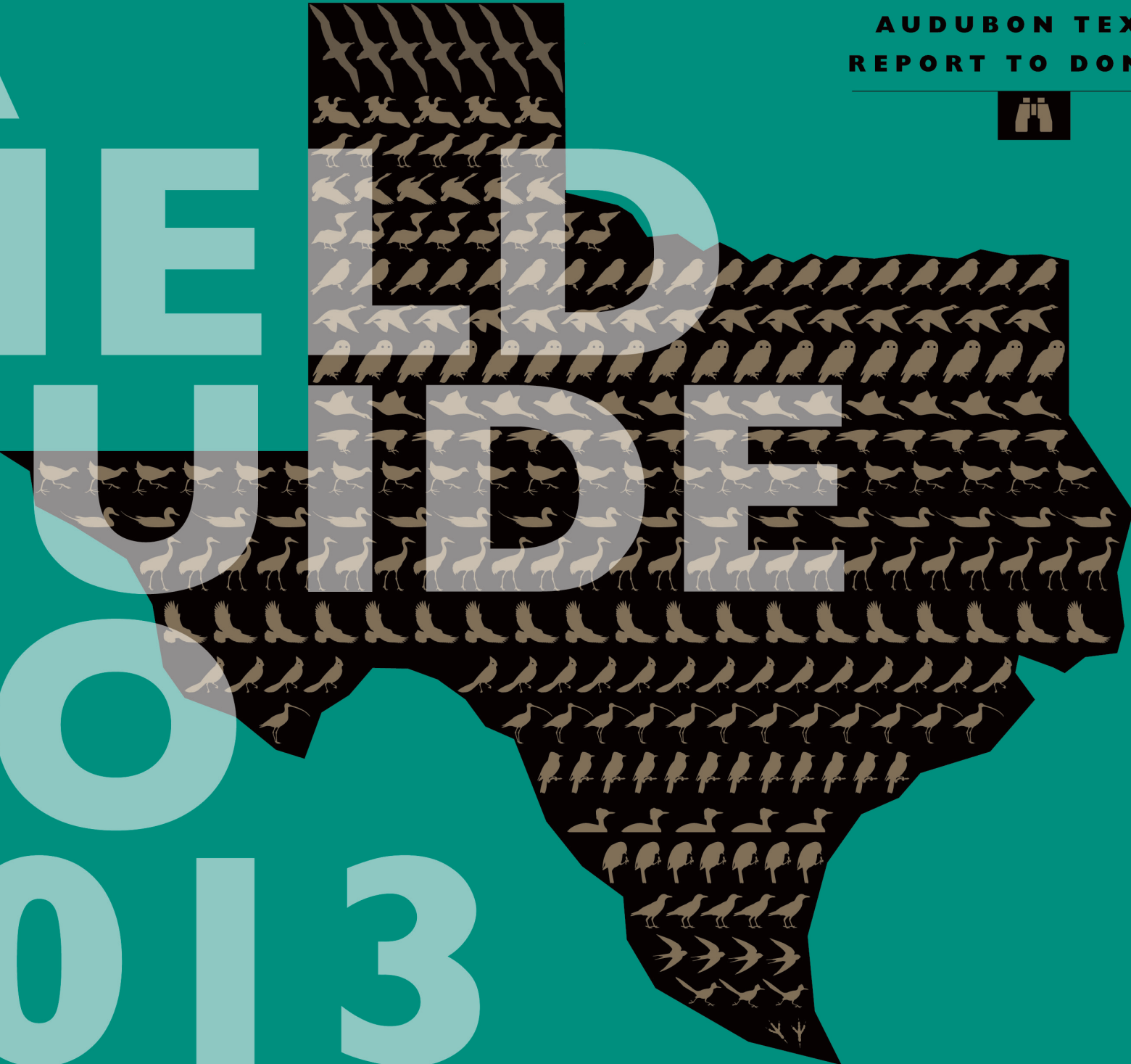


A FIELD GUIDE TO 2013

AUDUBON TEXAS
REPORT TO DONORS



Dear Friends –

There was a moment I recently experienced at an Audubon Center here in Texas that I would like to share with you.

I stood in the back of the group of students and watched light shimmering in the children's eyes as they took in the full majesty of the Red-tailed Hawk perched on the trainer's arm. The captivated students were so enraptured by the grace and power of one of Texas' largest resident birds of prey stoically staring them down that the words of the Audubon educator telling the hawk's story seemed lost in the background. In the hawk's unblinking gaze were thousands of years of instinct and natural balance – success and failure, triumph and defeat, are the generational struggle to not just survive, but to thrive. It was in that moment I realized we were more than just teachers and advocates...we are all students of one of most important lessons of our lives.

Renaissance is one of the words that come to mind when I reflect on the last year at Audubon in Texas. From deep in the heart of this Texan, my thanks to all of you who have helped us make very meaningful steps in this latest chapter of our conservation journey. This report is a testament to what we are capable of together. Thank you.



Your partner in Texas,

Brian Trusty
Executive Director, Audubon Texas
Vice President, National Audubon Society



From all of us at Audubon in Texas, thank you for making great things happen. While our conservation is sometimes personal, giving thanks is something we like to share.



- ❖ 302 combined years of nonprofit work
- ❖ 274 combined years of conservation work
- ❖ 176 combined years of teaching experience
- ❖ 115 years as a citizen science conservation organization in Texas

Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not.

- DR. SEUSS, THE LORAX

Our Audubon Centers in Dallas, Cedar Hill, San Antonio, and Brownsville serve Texas communities with hands-on programs designed to inspire stewardship, strengthen science skills, and engage people in meaningful conservation action. Each year we introduce tens of thousands of families, individuals, and students to wild Texas as a source of life-long learning and enriched life.

During 2012-2013, your generosity supported strategic expansion of our educational programs as well as producing critical outcomes. We provided after-school programs, day camps, overnight campouts, conservation workshops, festivals, field trips, citizen science initiatives, nature clubs, river floats, and teacher seminars. Most importantly, the young people who participated in our programs became excited about science, more connected to nature, and better aware of their personal responsibility to conserve and protect our amazing state.

Thank you for helping to grow our passion to get kids outside!

*Statewide,
we nurture and serve
50,000+ students,
7,000+ teachers, and
50+ partner school districts
with our powerful
hands-on programs.*



Mitchell Lake Audubon Center,
San Antonio, TX



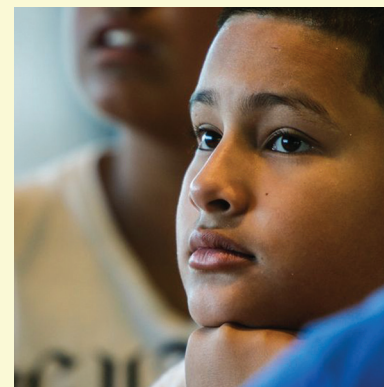
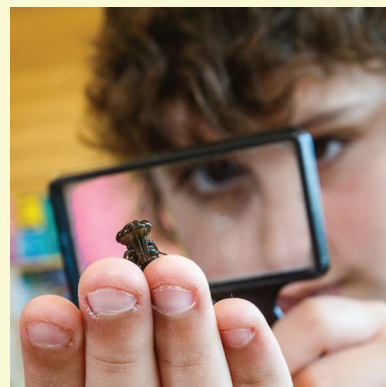
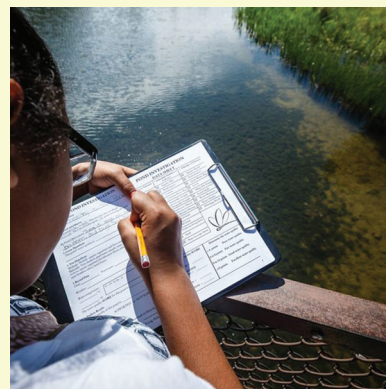
Dogwood Canyon Audubon Center,
Cedar Hill, TX



Trinity River Audubon Center,
Dallas, TX



Sabal Palm Audubon Sanctuary,
Brownsville, TX
Managed by our partner Gorgas Science Foundation



"As a campus administrator, I constantly seek to develop partnerships with organizations that support our instruction and extend the learning environment beyond the classroom for our students. One of our greatest educational partners in this journey is the Trinity River Audubon Center. Through activities provided at the Center; our young men have conducted research on natural habitats, participated in preservation lessons and community services projects for the environment. Thank you to our Trinity River Audubon Center family for supporting our work at Barack Obama Male Leadership Academy."



- NAKIA DOUGLAS, PRINCIPAL OF BARACK OBAMA
MALE LEADERSHIP ACADEMY, DALLAS, TEXAS



Why birds? Birds are excellent indicators of ecosystem health because they are an environmental proxy – the literal canary in the coalmine for the health of our land. By protecting birds and their habitats, Audubon protects landscapes and resources that support the rich biodiversity of Texas and protects the natural and human communities of which birds are an essential part.

From the Big Bend to the Big Thicket, from the High Plains to the Rio Grande Valley, Texas is a dynamic and biodiverse landscape with significant conservation need. Audubon is committed to producing conservation at scale in the focal areas of the Texas Coast, the vastness of our prairies and grasslands, and our growing urban landscapes.

COASTAL – In 2013 Audubon celebrated our 90th year of being a coastal steward in Texas. Audubon Texas manages 178 islands that stretch across 70% of the Texas Coast, by restoring and protecting these habitats for birdlife in the long-term. These barrier islands include some of the most critical Important Bird Areas in the state and are the seasonal home to 333 of the 338 long distance migratory bird species in North America.



PRAIRIE – Over 60% of 262,000-square-mile Texas constitutes grassland or prairie ecosystems, including the most endangered ecosystem in North America – Blackland Prairie. The Audubon Texas Prairie and Grasslands Conservation Program engages private landowners and ranchers in a financially viable alternative to land uses that are destructive to these native habitats. Audubon is working to strengthen the growing market for bird-friendly, grass-fed beef, providing ranchers the opportunity to protect and restore native prairies and grasslands with agricultural practices that are financially lucrative, economically stable, and ecologically sound.

URBAN – Fueled by a booming economy, Texas is experiencing rapid population growth and is home to eight of the 15 fastest growing large cities in the United States. A staggering 85% of Texans live in a major metropolitan area today. Our Urban Conservation Program engages municipalities, local governments, and urban residents in meaningful conservation planning to protect the quality and supply of our precious natural resources and healthy urban habitats. In 2013, Audubon Texas announced the roll-out of this program as a part of National Audubon's Bird Friendly Communities initiative.

In your support, you are a part of a community where birds thrive, people prosper, and we work together to take care of Texas.



REDDISH EGRET

If you've never spied a single Reddish Egret stirring up fish in the shallow waters of our Texas bays you should put it on your bucket list. Graceful is not a term that comes to mind, however, there is method to his madness. This frenetic wader has mastered the art of hunting by shading the water to better see his prey. Some call it a dance other just marvel at the flamboyant nature of it all. Their plumage comes in both red and white and for this reason plume hunters nearly eliminated this amazing wader from our waters. Reddish Egret's are one of our rarest waders. Texas is privileged to host the largest single nesting island for Reddish Egret in the United States. The health and proper management of this site along with others along the Texas coast helps ensure their populations thrive.

HEALTHY
COASTAL HABITAT



LESSER PRAIRIE-CHICKEN

Largely misunderstood as a difficult species to protect, the Lesser Prairie-Chicken is truly a Texan at heart with its love of large, wide open spaces. This species struggles in many western states to maintain viable populations and continues to be threatened by habitat loss through development and disturbance. Despite the provocative debate to list or not to list the Lesser Prairie-Chicken as an endangered species, no one can argue that preserving the productive habitats of this iconic grassland bird results in incredible prairie and grassland conservation.

HEALTHY PRAIRE
& GRASSLANDS



WHOOPING CRANE

The gangly grace of one of North America's most endangered animals has become a symbol for conservation need and the focus on priority species. Whooping Cranes depend upon wetland and marsh environments that are located throughout their migration path from the Texas coast, up through America's heartland, and into the prairie potholes of the Dakotas and Canada. Recent droughts and decreases in freshwater flows reaching their vital wintering ground near Aransas and San Antonio Bays have made it difficult for these birds to find enough food to survive. Whooping cranes act as umbrella species for the entire systems on which they depend; conservation efforts to restore wetlands for Whoopers preserve some of the most robust ecosystems in the hemisphere.

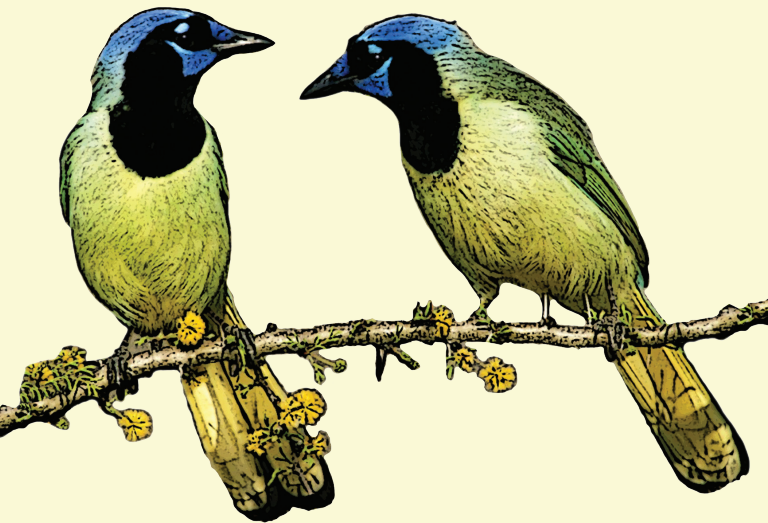
HEALTHY WETLANDS
& MARSHES



GOLDEN-CHEEKED WARBLER

This little endangered songbird has been the environmental proxy through which tremendous conservation efforts have succeeded in multiple locations throughout the state. Once an abundant species, the Golden-cheeked Warbler has steadily declined to endangered status because of severe loss of habitat and ecological competition. Nesting nowhere in the world but central Texas and hill country habitats, this colorful conservation ambassador has stimulated the preservation and protection of thousands of acres of native habitat including areas within some of our fastest growing urban centers. Travis Audubon Society certainly leads the efforts in Texas as a champion of urban conservation focused on a critical bird species.

HEALTHY URBAN FORESTS
& CANYONLANDS



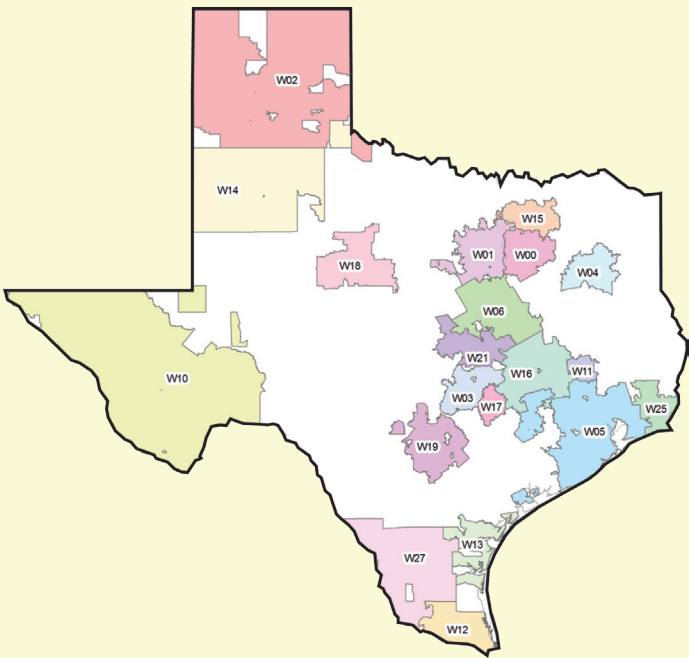
PARTNERS

50+ partner school districts
Accenture
American Bird Conservancy
Aransas Nature Club
Baptist Mission Church
bcWorkshop
Big Thought
Boy Scouts of America/Girl Scouts of America
Boys & Girls Club of America
Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program
Cedar Hill State Park
City of Cedar Hill
Clint Horticulture
Crow Collection of Asian Art
Dallas Baptist University
Dallas County Community College District
Dallas Museum of Art
Dallas Zoo
Deloitte
Energy XXI
Ernst & Young
Founders Garden Club of Dallas
Galveston Bay Estuary Program
Galveston Bay Foundation
Gardening Volunteers of South Texas
Gorgas Science Foundation
Groundwork Dallas
Gulf Coast Bird Observatory
John Bunker Sands Wetland Center
JPMorgan Chase Foundation
Katy Prairie Conservancy
Latino Cultural Center
Lewisville Aquatic Ecosystem Research Facility
College of the Mainland
Mexican Consulate
Nasher Sculpture Center
National Charity League
National Fish & Wildlife Foundation
Native Plant Society of Texas
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Northwood University
NRG Energy
Oak Hills Rotary Club
Perot Museum of Nature and Science
REI
Rogers Wildlife Rehabilitation Center
San Antonio River Authority
Senior Source
Studio Outside
Texas A&M University
Texas A&M University – Galveston
Texas A&M University San Antonio
Texas Association for Environmental Education
Texas Conservation Alliance
Texas Discovery Gardens
Texas General Land Office
Texas Instruments
Texas Master Gardeners
Texas Master Naturalists
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
Texas Tech University
The Nature Conservancy
The North Face
Trinity University
United Way of Metropolitan Dallas
University of Texas at San Antonio
University of the Incarnate Word
US Army Corps of Engineers
US Fish & Wildlife Service
UT Southwestern
Whole Earth Provision Co.
World Affairs Council

CHAPTERS

Audubon Dallas
Bastrop County Audubon Society
Bexar Audubon Society
Big Country Audubon Society
Central Texas Audubon Society
Coastal Bend Audubon Society
El Paso Trans Pecos Audubon Society
Fort Worth Audubon Society
Golden Triangle Audubon Society
Houston Audubon Society
Huntsville Audubon Society
Llano Estacado Audubon Society
Monte Mucho Audubon Society
Prairie & Timbers Audubon Society
Rio Brazos Audubon Society
Rio Grande Delta Audubon Society
Texas Panhandle Audubon Society
Travis Audubon Society
Twin Lakes Audubon Society
Tyler Audubon Society



- W00, Audubon Dallas
- W01, Fort Worth Audubon Society
- W02, Texas Panhandle Audubon Society
- W03, Travis Audubon Society
- W04, Tyler Audubon Society
- W05, Houston Audubon Society
- W06, Central Texas Audubon Society
- W010, El Paso Trans Pecos Audubon Society
- W11, Huntsville Audubon Society
- W12, Rio Grande Delta Audubon Society
- W13, Coastal Bend Audubon Society
- W14, Llano Estacado Audubon Society
- W15, Prairie and Timbers Audubon Society
- W16, Rio Brazos Audubon Society
- W17, Bastrop County Audubon Society
- W18, Big Country Audubon Society
- W19, Bexar Audubon Society
- W21, Twin Lakes Audubon Society
- W25, Golden Triangle Audubon Society
- W27, Monte Mucho Audubon Society

VOLUNTEERS

Our widespread network of local action delivers powerful impact for nature in Texas.

Thanks to all of our partners in the 2012-2013 year!

Education Hours: **13,535**
Habitat Conservation Hours: **6,617**

Total Volunteers Hours: **20,152**



We join our **partner**, Gorgas Science Foundation, in celebrating the opening of the newly restored 1892 Rabb Plantation home!

The house serves as the new visitor center for Sabal Palm Sanctuary (Brownsville, TX), a 527-acre preserve that is home to a wonderful assortment of birds and other wildlife and one of the last stands of old-growth Sabal Palm in the United States.

INTRODUCING THE

TEXAS WOMEN IN CONSERVATION PROGRAM



Audubon's Texas Women in Conservation Program recognizes outstanding women leaders in today's conservation movement throughout the Lone Star State, supports opportunities in Texas for girls and women to become more involved in conservation and environmental sciences, and engages women on important issues related to conservation in Texas. All gifts in support of this award and all proceeds from Audubon's annual luncheon will support the enhancement of citizen science, conservation, and educational activities in Texas that focus on engaging women and girls in stewardship and conservation of the natural world.

Audubon Texas and Houston Audubon Society will co-host the first annual luncheon benefitting Audubon's new Texas Women in Conservation Program in Houston in February 2015, during which an inaugural and esteemed group of outstanding women leaders in today's conservation movement throughout the

Lone Star State will be presented with the Terry Hershey Texas Women in Conservation Award.

Terry Hershey has devoted and invested substantial passion, time, energy, and resources in significant conservation projects in Houston and throughout Texas. In honor of this well-known "force of nature for nature," Audubon is honored to name its Texas Women in Conservation Awards for Mrs. Hershey.



*The nature of her
business is nature.*

*Protecting our birds
and our bayous, our parks
and our prairies, our
rivers and our streams,
our wild things and our
wild places. She's been
aptly described by just
about everybody as a
force of nature.*

*And you could hardly find
a better characterization
of Terry Hersey.*

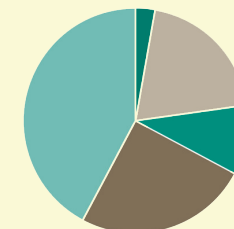
- CARTER SMITH,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF TEXAS
PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT,
AUSTIN, TX

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

We are proud to report 90% of every dollar contributed to Audubon Texas goes directly to conservation and education programs in the Lone Star State.

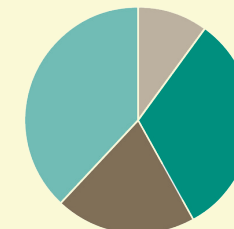
REVENUE

- Corporations 20%
- Earned Revenue 10%
- Government Grants 3%
- Foundations 25%
- Individuals 42%



EXPENSES

- Administration 10%
- Center Operations 32%
- Conservation 20%
- Education Programs 38%



DONOR SPOTLIGHT

"We really appreciate Audubon's commitment to conservation and the associated education and experiences provided to thousands of young children, most of which rarely get exposed to the outdoors and nature. We are particularly impressed with the enthusiasm of the Audubon staff."



LONNIE & JENNY SAMFORD,
MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN KESTREL SOCIETY,
AUSTIN, TX

INTRODUCING THE



A premier recognition society for generous donors who give \$1,000 or more annually to Audubon Texas, including gifts to its Audubon Centers and conservation programs.

Member privileges will include:

- ❖ Exclusive invitations to Audubon Texas events
- ❖ Insider reports from the Executive Director
- ❖ Recognition in annual reports and online communications
- ❖ Early registration for Audubon Texas travel opportunities
- ❖ Private tours of our Audubon Centers

2012-2013 HONOR ROLL OF DONORS *strength in numbers*

Audubon Texas sincerely appreciates these generous donors who gave \$1,000 or more to our programs between July 1, 2012, and June 30, 2013. To all of our donors, thank you for your philanthropic investment and passion for the natural world that Audubon Texas strives to protect.

\$100,000 AND MORE

Anonymous
City of Cedar Hill
City of Dallas - Park & Recreation Department
Mary McDermott Cook
The Dallas Foundation
The Jonesville Foundation
Eugene McDermott Foundation

\$50,000 - \$99,999

Garrett and Cecilia Boone
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San Antonio Audubon Society
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USAA Foundation
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Whole Earth Provision Co.
Wild Birds Unlimited
Hunter and Beth Williams
Jim and Betsy Winn
Debra Witter and Scott Chase
Mike and Linda Wolfson
Wolverine World Wide

GRINNELL LEGACY SOCIETY

The Grinnell Legacy Society recognizes those thoughtful donors who have named National Audubon Society as a beneficiary in their estate plans. These members' legacies will insure the future, financial well-being of this amazing organization. Audubon Texas thanks these generous Texans who have designated National Audubon Society in their estate plans:

Alexander Adams
Carlos Araoz
Mary Lee Archer *
Stephanie Barko *
Charles M. Bartlett *
Dodge and Lorna Engleman *
Jay Heppner and Sandra Tibbs *
Terry Hershey
Philip Huey *
Robert and Louise Hutchinson
Tom and Patsy Inglet *
Joann Karges
Joseph and Muriel Jean Krause *
Barbara Kyse *
Mary Ann Rao Lancaster *
Ruth Lofgren *
Jay and Betty Lorch
Lisa Meacham *
Richard E. Norris *
Larry Peterson *
Jerrold H. Rehmar *
Jan J. Roberts *
William "Billy" Rodriguez *
Gay Rogers
Marita Roos *
Larry and Judy Sall *
Nancy Strickland
Lydia B. Test *+

* Legacy gifts designated to Audubon Texas programs
+ Deceased

Gift Recognition Statement
The Honor Roll of Donors acknowledges gifts made from July 1, 2012, through June 30, 2013. Although every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this information, error or omissions are possible. For comments or questions, please contact audubontexas@audubon.org.

MOVING FORWARD

We at Audubon are in awe of our natural world.
Its resiliency, its unwavering rhythm, its contrary serenity,
and its incredible capacity to improve the human spirit.

We believe we're living in a dangerous and important time,
when even the smallest choice – to protect or destroy, to
deplete or conserve, discard or reuse – holds weight in
the balance of nature.

And we believe nature is a human right.

That our children have a right to the kind of natural
experience that feeds the soul and quiets the mind.
That they should be able to experience the prairies and
rivers and forests they learn about in history books, as
history's subjects experienced them.

At Audubon, we're leaving the legacy of our natural
heritage.

And we're creating a Texas where conservation is the way
of life.

Your philanthropic investment is essential to our continued
success. Thank you for your partnership in
Texas conservation!



Audubon TEXAS

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